



Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Regular Session

August 27, 2019 7:00 a.m.
Parks Administration Building

The Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Commission met in regular session. Present were Parks and Recreation Commissioners Gwynne Pitts, Ken Phelan, Lynn Scheller, Marilynn Helzerman, Nickole Vargas and Forrest Huntington; City staff Dave Miletich, Jeroen Kok, Mary Loftin, Amber Victoor, Sean Morgan, Ken Pipher, Nancy Nye, Robby Hammond, Ryan Stee and Karen Edwards; Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Metro Councilor and Brian Kennedy, Metro CFO; Citizen Ken Knowles

City Manager, Robby Hammond, addressed the Commissioners and thanked them and staff for supporting him. He is honored to serve in this capacity.

Commission Chair Pitts called the meeting to order.

Citizen Communication: Ken Knowles requested more private changing rooms at the Shute Park Aquatic & Recreation Center. He stated they could be portable and or remodel the current locker room. He also requested that everyone shower in swim suits. Miletich stated there are plans to renovate the locker rooms in the future. Commission Chair Pitts thanked him for sharing the request and attending the meeting.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Helzerman and seconded by Huntington to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 23, 2019 as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Helzerman and seconded by Huntington to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on July 23, 2019 as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports/Presentations:

Metro Parks & Nature Bond: Gonzalez and Kennedy informed the commissioners if the bond passes property tax rates will not go up. It is at the same rate of .19 cents per thousand dollars of value. This bond covers six areas:

1. Land purchase and restoration
2. Metro park improvements
3. Nature in Neighborhoods grants
4. Local parks and nature projects
5. Walking and bike trails
6. Complex community projects

Kennedy added the percentage of fund spent in each county is based on population. Hillsboro should receive approximately six million of the ninety-two million the bond will generate. After Kennedy stated they turn over management of Metro properties to the cities or districts they are in Pitts inquired about the Metro responsibilities. Kennedy replied Metro is a unique agency and oversees regional planning. They also manage the Multnomah County parks, sites in unincorporated areas and open space. Miletich suggested a future work session about the Metro Grants. Kok inquired about the racial equity goals. Gonzalez stated that construction project contracts are targeted toward minority-owned businesses. The City is also working with Metro to complete the trail from downtown Hillsboro to Jackson Bottom Wetlands. Gonzalez asked the Commissioners to support the bond.

Fiber Hut Update: Stee reminded the commissioners that fiber huts will be built at Shute Park and Century Oaks Park. The fiber hut at Century Oaks Park will be located in the corner of the park. It will have a basalt rock face on a large mound with turf covering the other sides. A door will access the equipment and a battery back-up will be used in case of a power outage. The design will be easy to maintain and a positive addition to the park. The Shute Park fiber hut will be part of a stage renovation. The stage size and dance area will be increased and the brick wall will still be the backdrop. A restroom shell and storage area will be added behind the stage. ADA access to the stage will also be added. Future phases may cover the stage, upgrade the electrical and complete the restroom. The timeline is 8-10 weeks to secure the permits and to begin construction on November 1, 2019.

The Inclusive Playground Project update was postponed to a future meeting. A list of regional parks with inclusive playgrounds will be shared. The play area at the 53rd Avenue location is 15,000 square feet. Community feedback will be included in the final design process. The definition of inclusive will also be shared with the public.

Patron Code of Conduct and Park Rules Discussion: Miletich stated that inappropriate behavior by patrons at Orenco Woods Nature Park and other locations prompted the need for a Code of Conduct. Additional trainings and meetings to educate the staff about how to handle difficult situations will be offered. Pipher stated that employee and patron safety comes first. They focused on the impact of statements made by others over the content. Two additional rules were proposed for the HMC. It is difficult to be specific. Criminal versus civil violations are also confusing. An exclusion may lead to a trespass which is a criminal violation. Commission chair Pitts suggested a letter to the editor to address these issues and inform the public of the expectations. The City attorney will come to a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on the Code of Conduct.

Community Center @ 53rd Avenue Update: Kok reported there has been great weather for construction. The footings are poured and the slab on grade work is done. An access road for construction cranes will be completed soon. These cranes will install the concrete walls and glue lam beams in October.

Director/Manager Update: Morgan stated the Blast program lost bussing home from the program and will now be open until 6:00 pm each night so parents can pick their children up. The Hillsboro School District has contributed to funding to help cover cost of the extended program. Nye distributed the 2020 Walters Concert Series line-up cards. Additional tables, chairs and umbrellas have been added at the Tom Hughes Plaza and Jerry Willey Plaza. The Arts & Culture Endowment fundraiser will be November 9, 2019 at the Walters Cultural Arts Center. Sean Morgan will be the MC for the evening.

Staff and Volunteer Recognition: None

Old Business: None

New Business: The Commissioners considered approving the Financial Assistance Policy. Victoor stated the revised policies brought all divisions together under one document. The approval response time for each customer request will be shorter. The new policy allows adults to apply for financial assistance. This policy uses the Federal Income Guidelines for Free or Reduced Lunch. Most fee reductions will be 50-75%. Any approval is valid for one year but each applicant can use the reduction for only one program during each of the three program sessions. The staff hopes this new policy will increase the opportunities for more patrons to register for our programs. Motion was made by Phelan and seconded by Scheller to approve the policy. The motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Session was canceled

Information Items:

Last Showtime Concert of the summer – August 29, Amberglen Park, 6:30pm

Last Food Truck Friday of the summer – August 30, Civic Center Plaza, 11:30am

Last Pix in the Park of the summer – August 30, Rood Bridge Park, 7:30 – 9:45pm

There being no other business, Commission Chair Pitts adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST: _____
Recorder

Chair